

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, as follows:

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional side elevation view of the spark discharge portion of the spark plug S1. The tip 31 of the central electrode 30 faces the tip side surface 43 of the earth electrode 40 through a discharge ~~gape~~ gap 50. Moreover, on the end surface 31 of the central electrode 30 facing the spark discharge gap 50, a noble metal chip 35 is welded thereto by the laser welding with forming a fused junction layer 37, and on the tip side surface 43 facing the discharge gap 50, a noble metal chip 45 is also welded thereto by laser welding.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 8, line 24 – page 9, line 3, as follows:

The noble metal chips 35 and 45 comprise Pt, a Pt alloy, Ir, an Ir-~~allay~~ alloy or the like. For example, each noble metal comprises an Ir-~~allay~~ alloy chip mainly including Ir and further includes (is doped with) at least one of Rh, Pt, Ni, W, Pd, Ru, and Os, or a Pt alloy chip mainly includes Pt and further includes (is doped with) at least one of Ir, Ni, Rh, W, Pd, Ru, and Os.